**HMONG KEEB KWM**

**Bee Chong Kao Vang- Interviewee**

**Houa Yang- Catawba County Library, Interviewer**

**Bee Chong Kao Vang- BV**

**Houa Yang- HY**

**This is an oral history recorded on June 25, 2018 at the Newton Library in Newton, North Carolina as part of Hmong Keeb Kwm, a grant project awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership between the Catawba County Library, the Historical Society of Catawba County, and North Carolina Digital Heritage Center for the purposes of collecting and preserving the history of the Hmong in Catawba County and the surrounding area.**

**Total length of interview: 17 minutes and 47 seconds**

**Available format(s): Audio recorded on Audacity® available as a .WAV file, and video available in two parts as a .MOV file**

**Transcription and translation by: Houa Yang- Catawba County Library**

**HY:** Ua ntej no, thov hais koj lub npe nrog rau lub xeem. *(Please state your name, including last name.)*

**BV:** Kuv lub npe hu Npis Txooj Kaub Vaj. *(My name is Bee Chong Kao Vang.)*

**HY:** Koj nyob lub zos twg, los sis koj yug qhov twg? *(Where do you live or where were you born?)*

**BV:** Kuv yug rau teb chaws Nplog rau lub khuang [Lao word for province] hu Xieng Kuang no. *(I was born in Laos in a province called Xieng Kuang.)*

**HY:** Es nim no koj nyob rau lub zos twg? *(Where do you live now?)*

**BV:** Tam sim nov kuv nyob rau lub zos Mount Gilead, North Carolina. *(Currently, I live in Mount Gilead, North Carolina.)*

**HY:** Thov qhia mi ntsis txog koj tus keej. *(Please tell a little bit about yourself.)*

**BV:** Kuv yug 1958. Ces kuv kawm ntawv mi ntsis nyob rau hauv Nplog lub capital, txog hoob rau. Ces peb tawg teb chaws 1975 ces cia li khiav tuaj rau teb chaws no lawm xwb.

*(I was born 1985. I studied a little in Laos in the capital city up to the sixth grade. Then when the war ended in 1975, I just came to America.)*

**HY:** Koj hais tias koj kawm ntawv Nplog no, koj kawm rau qhov twg os? *(You said you studied in Laos, where was that again?)*

**BV:** Kuv kawm nyob rau hauv Vientiane. *(I studied in Vientiane.)*

**HY:** Xyoo twg yog xyoo nej tuaj teb chaws Miskas? *(What year did you come to America?)*

**BV:** Kuv tuaj teb chaws Miskas no yog lub rau hli xyoo 1978. *(I came to America in June of 1978.)*

**HY:** Thaum nej tua txog, nej poob rau qho twg? *(Where did you end up when you arrived in America?)*

**BV:** Kuv tuaj txog ces kuv cov tij laug tua ua ntej rau tom Mobile, Alabama ces kuv tuaj poob rau Mobile, Alabama. *(When I got here, my brothers were already here in Mobile Alabama, so I ended up in Mobile, Alabama.)*

**HY:** After ntawv ces nej ho tsiv rau qhov twg? *(Where did you go after that?)*

**BV:** Tag qho ntawv ces ntseeg tau hais tias yuav tuaj nyob lub teb chaws no tiag tsis muaj chaw mus lawm ces 1983 kuv thiaj li tsiv los kawm ntawv nyob rau pem La Crosse, Wisconsin. *(After that, I finally realized I really had to live in this country and there was nowhere else to go. So in 1983, I decided to move to La Crosse, Wisconsin and attend school.)*

**HY:** Ces thaum twg nej thiaj li tsiv rau North Carolina? *(So when did you move to North Carolina?)*

**BV:** Peb los kawm ntawv pev plaub xyoos tag ces kuv tij laug thiaj hais tias no heev thiab peb nyob tsis tau ces kom nrhiav chaw tawm. Ces thaum lub tsib hli 1988 ces peb tsiv los rau North Carolina. *(When we finished school in about 3-4 years, my older brother said it’s too cold for us to stay there so we should move. So in May of 1988, we moved to North Carolina.)*

**HY:** Ces nej yeej tsiv rau Mount Gilead lod? *(And you moved to Mount Gilead?)*

**BV:** Yog kawg, peb los ncaj qha rau tov. *(Yes, we came straight to there.)*

**HY:** Ces koj twb nyob rau lub lav North Carolina no tau pes chawg xyoo lawm? *(So then you’ve lived in North Carolina for how many years?)*

**BV:**Txij puag thaum 1988 los txog tav no lawm. *(Ever since 1988.)*

**HY:** Koj piav qhia mi ntsis txog lub sij hawm uas ua rog yom? *(Can you tell a little bit about how it was like during the war?)*

**BV:** Lub sij hawm ua rog ntawv ces kuv tseem kawm ntawv. Tabsis mas kuv tsev neeg tag nrho ces lawv ua thaab haam [Lao word for soldier] tag nrho. Ces kuv txiv kuj yog ib tug thawj coj rau lub teb chaws los tsuas ntawv thiab ces nws kuj xa kuv mus kawm ntawv rau Nplog lub capital Vientiane ntawv. Lub caij ntawv tsov rog loj thiab peb Hmoob tau kev txom nyem heev nawb. Kuv niam thiab kuv txiv lawv mas yeej pw hav zoov, hav tsuag ntau xwb rau qho cov mos txwv, cov riam phom mas tuaj heev li ces sawv daw yeej nyob tsis taus hauv vaj hauv tsev li.

*(During the war I was still in school. However, my entire family were all soldiers. My dad was a leader in our community so he sent me away to study in the Lao capital, Vientiane. At that time the Hmong suffered a lot. My parents would mostly sleep in the forests and jungles because there were constantly bombs and bullets flying so you couldn’t stay in the village and in your homes.)*

**HY:** Thaum lub sij hawm ua tsov rog ntawv koj muaj pes tsawg xyoo? *(How old were you at that time?)*

**BV:** Kuv ntseeg hais tias kuv muaj 14 xyoos. *(I believe I was around 14.)*

**HY:** Koj piav mi ntsis txog lub sij hawm ua tawg rog yom? Nej puas khiav teb chaws los li cas xwb? *(Can you tell a little about the end of the war? Did you have to run or how was it for you?)*

**BV:** Lub sij hawm ua tawg rog, lub tsib hli wanthi 14, 1975 ces tawg rog. Ces thaum ntawv kuv kawm ntawv nyob rau hauv Vientiane. Peb cov Hmoob ua nyob rau hauv Vientiane, paub Vientiane thiab nyob Vientiane, tsuas muaj li 20 feem puav xwb. 80 feem pua ces peb cov Hmoob yeej tsis paub Vietiane tsuas yog tau hnov hais tias Nplog lub nroog loj thiab tseem ceeb nyob rau qhov ntawv xwb. Thaum peb tawg rog ntawv ces kuv kuj muaj peb cov Hmoob thaab haam thiab peb cov Hmoob los rau Vietiane kuj muaj coob heev. Ces muaj plaub tug ua xa peb cov Hmoob hla dej NamKhong [Mekong] los mus rau sab Thai teb tau li plaub lossis tsib lub hli ntawv. Ib hmo twg peb yeej thauj txog li hais tias pua pua leej es nyiag hmo ntuj xwb es xa peb cov Hmoob rau sab tiv. Ces tag qhov ntawv ces rau lub rau hli wanthi 11, 1975 ces cov Hmoob tuaj tsawg thiab cov Nplog txiav tag ces kuv thiaj mam li hla tuaj rau Thai teb lawm.

*(The war ended around May 14, 1975. At that time I was a student in Vientiane. The Hmong who lived in Vientiane or that had ever been to Vientiane was less that 20 percent. 80 percent only knew that it was the capital of Laos and heard it was a big city. After the end of the war, the Hmong soldiers and Hmong people flooded into Vientiane. There was four of us that helped the Hmong cross the Mekong river to the Thailand side for about 4 or 5 months. Every night we would send hundreds of people under cover of darkness to the other side. After that, around June 11, 1975, fewer people were coming and the Laotian forbade it so I finally crossed into Thailand.)*

**HY:** Thaum koj hla rau Thai teb koj mus rau qhov twg? (*Where did you go when you got into Thailand?)*

**BV:** Kuv mus rau Xi- Xiang Mai ces kuv mam li los Xi-Xiang Mai los rau Nong Khai. Ces tag rau Nong Khai ntawv ces kuv mam rov los pab Hmoob ib lwm ntxiv. Ces lawv pom tias kuv ua hauj lwm zoo thiab kuv muaj nuj qes rau Thai ces kuv cov tij laug hla rau tom Nam Phong tag ces lawv mam xa kuv rau Nam Phong lawm.

*(I went to Xi-Xiang Mia then from Xi-Xiang Mai I went to Nong Khai. After Nong Khai, I returned to help the Hmong again. I was seen as hardworking and valuable to the Thai, so my brothers had gone to Nam Phong so they also sent me there.)*

**HY:** Thaum koj xub tsiv tauj rau teb chaws Miskas zoo li cas? *(How was it when you first came to America?)*

**BV:** Peb tuaj rau tebchaws Miskas mas txom nyem nawb. Thiab thaum ntawv peb Hmoob yeej tsis paub hais tias America zoo li cas thiab Miskas nyob qho twg. Ces peb kawm ntawv sab tiv ces peb kawm ntawv Nplog thiab peb kawm ntawv Fabkis xwb os ces peb tsis paub lus Miskas. Ces tuaj tebchaws Miskas no ces yeej tu siab heev. Yeej xav tias xav pom muaj txoj sia, xav pom survive txog niaj hnub no, ces tu siab heev. Thaum tuaj mas deb heev ces koj tuaj ib hmo tagkis mam li rov qab pom kev. Ces yeej xav tias zaum no kuv tsis ntsib kuv cov neeg, zaum no kuv tsis pom kuv lub teb chaws, xyov kuv mus tiv kuv yuav zoo li cas. Ces tu siab heev. Thaum kuv los tsaws rau tsav nyoob hoom Mobile, Alabama nrav...ces peb lub nyoob hoom mas peb tuaj rau Alaska, peb mam mus rau Chicago, ces mam toj Chicago ya rau Mobile, Alabama. Ces kuv lub nyoob hoom poob flight rau Chicago.

Ces tuaj txog rau Mobile, Alabama ces ua cas tsis muaj ib tug neeg li. Tiag taig mas lawv tuaj tos kuv tab sis mas tsis muaj ib tug neeg li ces yus xav xav tias tej zaum lawv tsis tau txog ces nyob ib pliag. Nyoob hoom mam los tawm, mam los tsev saib saib no, puas yog? Tib pliag no ces lawv [mus] tas lawm, ces kuv pom ib tug tov ncig los ces kuv thiaj muab...kuv nqa kuv tus xov tooj. Thaum yus yuav tuaj mam yeej kawm mi ntsis Askis rau qho tias paub tias yuav tuaj ces...kuv tias “Thov koj hu rau kuv tsev neeg.” Ces lawv hais tias, “Koj lig lawm, peb thiaj tos tsis laib koj ces peb mam rov qab tau.” Tuaj ntawv rau tsav nyoob hoom yog 45 na thi ces lawv mam tuaj tos tau kuv. Tag kis kaj ntug koj muab ntsia lub teb chaw no txawv tag nrho yus teb yus chaws [voice trembling]. Koj ntsia qho twg los tsis zoo li yus cov neeg lawm. Kuv quaj ib hnub nawb, es tu saib heev os, tus saib.

*(It was so difficult when we first came to America. At that time, Hmong people didn’t know what America was like or even where America was. When we were in school we only learned Laos and French so we didn’t know any English. So when coming to America, I was so sad. Of course, I was glad I was still alive and had survived but I was still sad. When I was coming, it was a very long trip. It took all day and night until the next morning. I thought I would never see my people again, I would never see my homeland again, I didn’t know what would happen to me. I felt devastated. When the plane landed at the airport...well, first the plane flew to Alaska, then we went to Chicago and connected from Chicago to Mobile, Alabama. My flight was late to Chicago so I missed the plane.*

*So when I got to Mobile, Alabama, there was noone there. Really, they [family] had already tried to come pick me up but I didn’t see anyone so I thought they hadn’t gotten there yet. I thought I should wait for a bit and the plane would move and there would be my family ready to take me home, right? After a while everyone left, so I saw a person coming towards me so I gave...I had the phone number. Before immigrating, I studied a little bit of English because I knew I was coming [to America], so I asked, “Please call my family.” They said, “Oh, you were late that’s why we weren’t able to get you. We’ll come back.” From where they live to the airport, it was 45 minutes until they finally got there. The next morning I looked around, everything was completely different from my homeland and my country [voice trembling]. Everywhere I looked, these were not my people and they were so different. I cried the entire day and was devastated. It was so sad.)*

**HY:** Thaum ntawv koj twb yuav poj niam lawm los tsis tau yuav? *(Were you married yet at the time?)*

**BV:** Kuv tsis tau yuav. *(I wasn’t married yet.)*

**HY:** Ces koj mam tuaj yuav tom teb chaws no? *(So you married in America?)*

**BV:** Aws yog kawg. Kuv coj kuv ib tug tij laug tus tub muaj li 12 xyoos nrog kuv tuaj. Kuv tij laug hais tias koj pus kom tau kuv tus tub no. Kuv tuag lawm los kav liam tsuav tau kuv tus mi nyuam no mus ua noob. Ces wb tuaj ob leeg.

*(Yes, that’s right. When I came, I brought one of my older brother’s sons that was about 12 years old with me. My brother said, “Take care of my son. Even if I die, at least my line would continue.” So it was the two of us that came.)*

**HY:** Ces koj niam koj txiv tsis tuaj los? *(So your parents didn’t come either?)*

**BV:** Aws, yog kawg. Lawv poob rau teb chaws Nplog nrog kuv tus tij laug, loj hlob nyob tim ub tag nrho. *(Yes, that’s right. They all fell behind in Laos along with my older brother. )*

**HY:** Es niam hnub nim no lawv tseem nyob tov? *(They still live there to this day?)*

**BV:** Aws, 1979, ces kuv thiab kuv cov tij laug peb tuaj ces peb siv zog heev ces peb xa nyiaj mus ces 1979 lawv rov mus tos tau kuv niam thiab kuv txiv tuaj tag ces ‘82 ces kuv niam kuv txiv tuaj tag teb chaws no huv huv.

*(After 1979, my brothers and I worked hard and continued to send money to them. Then in 1982 my parents were able to immigrate to America.)*

**HY:** Ok, zoo mas. *(Ok, that’s great.)*

**HY:** Koj piav mi ntsis tias koj tuaj txog lub teb caws no es koj pab zej zog li cas? Lub zej zog ua yog lub community Hmong, los yog lis cas? *(In what ways do you serve your community? Like, your town or the Hmong community?)*

**BV:** Peb yog ib tse neeg zoo nawb ces Hmoob yeej paub peb coob coob os. Ces thaum kuv khiav los txog rau La Crosse xwb ces lawv twb coj kuv mus ua ib tug board nyob rau hauv lub koom haum hu lub mutual association [Hmong Mutual Assistance Association] nyob rau La Crosse ntawv. Ces 1986 ces kuv twb pib ua board thiab kuv pab rau qho ntawv. Ces xyoo peb khiav los rau North Carolina no ces 1988 ntawv ces peb yeej hu sib tam ua ntug zus hais tias peb poob teb chaws los kav liam tab sis xav kom Hmoob muaj ib lub npe thiab peb muaj ib zaj dav neeg tseg thiab ib qho av pub rau peb cov tub mi nyuam lawv cov hluas li nej no yam tom ntej. Ces peb thiaj los yuav qhov av no ces kuv yeej ua ntug zus. Xyoo 1994 txog rau 1995 ntawv kuv yeej los tuav lub koom haum Hmong Southeast Puavpheej no los lawm.

*(My family is a well known family with a good reputation so many people know us. When we moved to La Crosse they asked me to be a board member to the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association in La Crosse. So in 1986 I began serving there. When we moved to North Carolina in 1988, there were plans and conversations, that even though we are displaced from our home country we still want the Hmong to leave a legacy and history behind, along with a plot of land for the future generations like yourself. So we bought the land [Hmong Culture Park] that we had planned. Since 1994 to 1995, I’ve been a part of the organization, Hmong Southeast Puavpheej.)*

**HY:** Hnub no koj nqa dabtsi tuaj rau peb qhov collection no? Koj puas kam muab show rau daim video? *(Did you bring anything to our collection today? Would you like to show it in our video?)*

**BV:** Cov ntawm no ces kuv twb muab rau lawv lawm. Nkaj Neeb yog tus uas tham tov ces kuv twb muab rau Nkaj Neeb tag lawm tab sis mas tab sis mas kuv nqa ib qho tias Hmong Southeast Puavpheej daim calendar. *(Well, I already gave this to them. Neng was the one who was going to talk about the items so I gave them to him but what I brought was the Hmong Southeast Puavpheej’s calendar.)*

**HY:** Koj muaj show rau peb daim video no yom? *(Can you show it in the video?)*

**BV:** [Takes out calendar.] Tso nov lo? *(Put it here?)*

**HY:** Aws, tso ko es koj muab show thiab qhia rau qhov kuv thaij ntawm no. *(Yes, right there. Show and talk about it so I can record it.)*

**BV:** [Shows calendar and flips through pages as he explains.] Qhov ntawm no yog peb cov ua tuav Hmong Southeast Puavpheej nyob rau xyoo 2015. Ces qhov no yog peb cov thawj coj tag nrho. Ces qho calendar no ces peb ua xav txog tias kom tuav tau Hmoob keeb kwm. Hmong lub keeb kwm no yog muaj dabtsi? Nws muaj qhov no thiab peb lub logo nyob rau qhov nov. Dhau los qhov nov ces peb mam pib hais tias thawj thawj tug thawj coj uas yuav tau daim av no yog leej twg.

Ces tus thij ib qhov no ces yog Pha-Than 9:37 [Lao word for “organization president”] Paj Tsab Muas. Ces nws uas ‘92 txog ‘94. Ces dhau qhov ntawv tag ces lawv ho xaiv tau kuv, ces kuv yog tus thij ob nyob rau ntawv no. Ces dhau los ces tus thij peb yog Vam Suav. Ces dhau los qhov no tus thij plaub qhov no yog Txawj Zeb Lauj. Ces tus thij tsib qhov no yog Spencer Lauj. Tus thij rau qho no yog Phan Tho Vaj Neeb Xyooj. Tus ntawv no yog Phan Tho Txooj Vam Yaj. Ces qhov no yog Phan Tho Txawj Pov Lis. Dhau qhov no yog Phan Tho Xaiv Lis Vaj. Dhau qhov no yog Phan Tho Paj Xab Hawj. Tag li no ces tshuav Phan Tho Txooj Tub thiab Phan Tho Nkaj Neeb tam sim no tabsis mas peb tsis tau muaj duab rau qhov no.

*([Shows calendar and flips through pages as he explains.] These were the leaders of Hmong Southeast Puavpheej for the year of 2015. This is a picture of all the leaders. This calendar is meant to be a memorabilia and documentation of our Hmong history. Here, you can see our logo. It traces our leaders so you can see how it came about that the Hmong acquired the land.*

*The first one here is Mr. Pa Cha Moua. He was from ‘92 until ‘94. After that, I was elected, so I was the second one. After that the third one was Vang Shoua. After that, the fourth one was Cher Ge Lor. After that, the fifth one was Spencer Lor. The sixth one was Vang Neng Xiong. Then this is Chong Vang Yang. Next, this is Cher Pao Lee. After that is Sai Lee Vang. After that is Pang Sa Her. That’s it but there is still Chong Tou and Ka Neng but we haven’t made pictures for them yet.)*

**HY:** Ua tsaug ua koj nqa tej ko tua show rau peb sawvdaws. *(Thank you for bringing all that to show us.)*

**HY:** Dab tsi yog qhov ua koj txaus siab rau thiab qhuas tshaj plaws ntawm koj lub neej? *(What are you happiest and most proud of in your life?)*

**BV:** Qhov kuv txaus siab thiab qhuas tshaj plaws hauv kuv lub neej mas kuv yug los ua ib tug Hmoob. Thiab kuv yug los yog lub sij hawm yoj uas peb muaj ib tug thawj coj zoo uas yog Nay Phon [Thai word for general] Vaj Pov coj peb cov neeg tuaj rau lub neej hais tias vam meej tsaj plaws. Yog peb Hmoob txawj sib hlub thiab peb Hmong txawj sib pab ces tiam no peb yuav nrog luag zoo lawm lub neej tom ntej qhov no. Nws yog ib tug qauv zoo tshaj plaws rau peb. Qhov no kuv zoo saib tsaj plaws tias kuv tau tuaj pom lub teb chaws no.

*(The thing I am happiest and most proud of is that I was born Hmong. Also, that I was borning during the right time where there was a leader, General Vang Pao, that brought our people to the greatest land of freedom. If we Hmong know how to love and help one another then we will prosper. He [Vang Pao] is a great model for us. This is what I am most proud of.)*

**HY:** Yav tom ntej no, koj xav kom neeg paub dab tsi txog Hmoob, Hmong lub neej, thiab Hmong kab lig kev cai? *(What would you like future generations to know about the Hmong culture?)*

**BV:** Txhua yam nawb. Yog tias peb ua tau li peb lub siab xav no ces, xav kom peb tsev neeg Hmoob los coj ib tug dab, es peb ua ib lub tsev neeg teev hawm li tej church no. Kom luag ntiaj teb no thiaj li paub thiab peb thiaj qhia tau tias Hmoob yog zoo li cas. Xav kom peb muaj ib tug Hmoob hais tias thawj coj ua zoo tiag tiag es qhia tau peb lub npe Hmoob mus yam tom ntej. Qhov no yog qhov uas kuv ntshaw heev.

*(Everything really. If it was as my heart desired then I would want for our whole Hmong family to have one spirit and have a worship temple like the churches here. So that the world can know and so that we can show what the Hmong are like. I wish we had a strong Hmong leader that can give honor to our name, Hmong, in the future. This is my greatest wish.)*

**HY:** Puas muaj lwm yam uas kuv tsis tau nug koj uas koj xav tham txog? *(Is there anything we didn’t talk about that you would like to add?)*

**BV:** Kuv ntseeg hais tias qhov lwm yam ntawv mas teb zaum nws nyob hauv ko tej zaum nws kuj tsis nyob hauv ko thiab tabsis mas qhov kuv xav tham txog mas kuv xav tham li no, peb cov laus thawj coj dhau yav tag los no lawm, tej zaum lawv yuav tsis muaj kev sib haum xeeb. Lawv yuav qhia nej cov hluas no hais tias tus no phem, tus no zoo li no ib puas tsav yam kom peb Hmoob no los npuab tsis tau ua ke. Tab sis we are the new generation. Peb yog tiam 21 no. Peb forget lawv qhov phem ntawv tag nrho. Peb yuav tsum muab qhov zoo coj los hais tias koj los zoo, kuv los zoo. Koj los tsim txiaj, kuv los tsim txiaj. Txawm koj kawm ntawv siab npaum li twg lo xij peem, koj nco ntsoov tias koj tseem yog Hmoob, es txo nrog peb Hmoob nyob ua ke. Koj txawm nplua nuj npaum li twg los xij peem, thov koj nco ntsoov tias koj yog Hmoob, rov qab los hlub peb tsev neeg Hmoob es kom peb nyob tau ua ib pab ib pawg es luag neeg ntiaj teb no thiaj saib taus peb.

Qho no peb tsis ua ces peb yuav muaj txoj kev phem mus qhia rau luag xwb, luag tsis kawm peb txoj kev zoo nawb. Luag tsuas kawm peb txoj kev phem xwb. Qhov no yog qhov kuv ntshaw tshaj plaws tias cov generation tam sis no, thov kom peb nco ntsoov hais tias qhov phem peb txhob ua lawm, peb ua zoo tiag tiag. Kom muaj ib hnub 20, 30 xyoo tom ntej no peb muaj ib tug President nyob hauv United States kom lub ntiaj teb no paub thiab Miskas paub tias Hmoob muaj hlwb ib yam luag tej, Hmoob yog ib haiv neeg zoo rau peb.

*(I believe something else, maybe it pertains to your project, maybe not but, what I want to say is that the older leaders are passing away. They may not have all gotten along in the past and may have told the you, youth that this one is bad, this one is at fault for everything, and that divides us. But we are a new generation, we are the 21st century generation. Let’s forgive anything that has been bad in the past. We have to recognize good in each other, you are good and I am good. You have virtue and I have virtue. It doesn’t matter how highly educated you are, you must remember that you are Hmong. Be humble and live with your fellow Hmong. It doesn’t matter how rich you are, you must remember you are Hmong and remember to love your fellow Hmong so we can be united as a people and the world can respect us.*

*If we don’t do this, all we have to share with the world are the negative things, they will not see the positive things about us. My greatest desire is for this generation to leave behind what is not beneficial and to continue to strive towards better. I hope one day 20 or 30 years from now there would be a Hmong President of the United States so the world can see that we, too, are intelligent and can do great things.)*

**HY:** Ces kuv nug koj li ntawm ko xwb. Thov ua tsaug uas koj tuaj hnub no. *(That’s all my questions. Thank you so much for being here today.)*

**BV:** Ua tsaug. *(Thank you.)*

**[Recording stopped and restarted at 13:25. This second portion is of Bee showing his various awards, certificates, and recognitions for his service in the community.]**

**HY:** Koj show koj cov khoom uas koj nqa tuaj rau peb yom? *(Can you show us the items you’ve brought?)*

**BV:** Ua li ntawv. Txij li xyoo 1994, es kuv tau los pab kwv tij Hmoob, tsis yog pab es lawv tsis nco txiaj nco ntsig. Lawv kuj hlub kuv heev thiab ces lawv kuj muab cov ntawb ntawv no pub rau kuv. Ces qhov no yog ib qhov txiaj ntsig ntawm tsev neeg Hmoob, pom tau hais tias kuv yeej siv zog thiab kuv yeej hlub lawv raws li kuv lub siab xav thiab qhov kuv ua tau.

[Shows his various awards and recognitions as he talks.]

Ntawm no yog lub committee nyob rau Florida. Kuv yeej mus pab lawv nrav thiab mus pab lawv khiav dej num rau tsev neeg Hmong Florida tib si.

Qho no yog cov des xeem los yog cov xeem hmoob Tsab. Lawv kuj xav hais tias kuv yog ib tug neeg tseem ceeb, lawv kuj hu kuv mus hais lus thiab lawv kuj pub tej khoom plig no tias kom kuv yeej meem pab Hmoob rau yav tom ntej.

Ntawm no yog peb Tsiab Peb Caug nyob rau ntawm Newton ntawm no. Lawv kuj caw kuv mus hais lus thiab lawv tias kuv yog ib tug neeg zoo. Nkawv ua daim no pub rau kuv thiab.

Daim ntawv no yog cov Hmoob nyob North Carolina no tag nrho. Lawv xaiv tau kuv tias kuv tsis yog ib tug neeg phem es kuv yog ib tug neeg zoo es lawv ua tsaug rau kuv.

Daim no yog daim ua kuv tau mus pab cov University, cov mi nyuam nyob tom Greensboro. Lawv kuj txaus siab thiab lawv kuj hais tias kuv yog ib tug coj zoo es lawv ua daim no pub rau kuv thiab.

Daim ntawv no yog nyob rau hauv koom haum Hmong Southeast Puavpheej uas hais tias txij li 1995 ua kuv tawm hauj lwm lawm ces kuv yeej pab lawv los txog niam hnub nim no.

Daim no yog ib daig ua lawv zoo siab es lawv pom tau hais tias kuv yog ib tug ua mob siab rau Hmoob tej hauj lwm ces Hmoob pub rau kuv.

Nov yog lub koom haum nyob rau Greensboro tib yam nkaus. Pluab xyoos ntawm tus thawj coj pib rau yav tom qab kuv tseem hlub lawv thiab kuv tseem pab lawv li qhov qub ces lawv kuj muab qhov no rau kuv thiab.

Nov yog tsev neeg Hmoob nyob rau nram Georgia uas yog xeem Muas. Lawv kuj hu kuv mus hais lus thiab lawv muab khoom plig thiab lawv hais tias kuv yog ib tug neeg uas hlub Hmoob tiag tiag es lawv kuj muab qhov no rau kuv thiab.

Daim ntawm no kuj yog cov xeem Hmoob uas tib yam tabsis mas thaum lawv dhau ib tug coj lawm lawv thiaj xav hais tias koj yog ib tug neeg zoo es koj nrhov qab tuaj pab peb. Kuv kuj mus ib yam.

Daim ntawm no yog daim lawv hais tias kuv mob siab rau koom haum tshaj plaws. Ua neeg nyob kuv xav kom Hmoob zoo thiab Hmoob ciaj neeg. Ces lub koom haum uas Hmong Southeast Puavpheej muab rau kuv.

Daim no yog lub nyob rau Florida thiab. Lawv pauv lawv cov phan tho [leaders] tag, xuv ob los lawv kuj caw kuv mus nrav thiab. Es kuv kuj mus ces lawv kuj hais tias kuv yog ib tug neeg zoo tiag tiag ces lawv kuj muaj rau kuv thiab.

Daim no yog nyob rau pem Greensboro tib yam. Es lawv muab rau kuv.

Daim no yog koom haum Hmong Southeast Puavpheej yav qub qub thaum xub thawj ua peb ua thaum 1995 thiab 1996 tej ntawv.

Daim no yog daim Florida thiab. Thaum xub xub thawj ua peb ua thiab. Yav uas peb xub pib ntawv ces peb tseem ua tsis tau zoo ces peb muab cov zoo li no.

Ces qhov no ces yog koom haum Hmoob Southeast Puavpheej xwb.

Ces ua ntej uas peb yuav yuav qho av dav thiab ua ntej peb yuav tau cov khoom plig no kuv yeej hais rau peb tsev neeg Hmong hais tias leej twg tau los ua peb tus thawj coj, thov kom peb hlub thiab peb tuag tam tus ntawv peb thiaj lis muaj qhov av tom no thiab peb thiaj li zoo ntxiv. Hos yog tias peb tsev neeg Hmoob tsis sib hlub es peb tsis los sib paub es peb los ua hauj lwm es peb xav ua kom peb tus thawj coj puas thiab peb daim av no puas ces daim no peb tsis muaj ib zaug ntxiv lawm. Qhov no yog qhov beginning rau peb lub neej tam sim no mus rau yav tom ntej rau nej cov hluas uas yog generation 21 no nawb.

*(Sure. Since 1994, since I started serving the Hmong community, they’ve remembered me and shown appreciation for what I’ve done. They’ve shown a lot of love and given me these certificates to recognize that I love the Hmong community and that I work hard to love and serve them to the best of my abilities.*

*This is from a committee in Florida. I helped serve the Hmong Florida in their organization.*

*This one is from the Hmong Chang clan. They received me as an honored guest and asked me to speak at their event. They gave me this gift to encourage me to continue helping the Hmong people.*

*This is from the New Year right here in Newton. They invited me to speak and recognized me as a great person and gave me this award.*

*This is from all the Hmong in North Carolina. They viewed me as a good person and chose me for this award to thank me.*

*This one is for my service to the Hmong students at the University at Greensboro. They recognized me for my character and my help and gave me this award.*

*This is from the Hmong Southeast Puavpheej organization. They recognized me for my service, that even though I left my official office in 1995 I’ve still helped them since.*

*This one is was given to recognize my hardwork and dedication to serving the Hmong community.*

*This one is from the organization at Greensboro [University] again. From their beginning and four years afterwards, I still supported and helped them so they gave me this award.*

*This is from the Hmong Moua clan in Georgia. They asked me to speak at their event and recognized me for my dedication to the Hmong and gave this to me.*

*This is from the same clan but when they switched over leadership, they said that I had good judgement so they asked for my help again and I went and helped.*

*This is from Florida again. When they switched over leadership a second time, they invited me back so I went. They gave me this as a recognition.*

*This one was given from Greensboro again.*

*This is from the Hmong Southeast Puavpheej organization from a long time ago when we first started around 1995 and 1996.*

*This is from Florida again. Also from when we first started. When we were beginning we were still working on things so the award is like this.*

*This is from Hmong Southeast Puavpheej again.*

*So even before we bought the land [Hmong Cultural Heritage Park] and before all these awards, my message to our Hmong family has always been that no matter who is our leader, we should support and submit to their authority so we would be able to work together to purchase a plot of land and to continue to prosper. If our Hmong family does not love one another and understand one another and if we just want to sabotage our leaders and our land then we will never be able to achieve anything. This is the beginning for the 21st century generation.)*

**HY:** Congratulations rau koj cov awards nov. *(Congratulations on all your awards.)*

**BV:** Ua tsaug! *(Thank you!)*

**[End recording]**